

Furthermore, it is almost impossible nowadays to keep secret the composition of drug products. Competitors can usually find out all they want to know through laboratory and other methods of investigation.

"Now let us consider the second alleged reason that the disclosure of formulas would be harmful to the public. . . .

"The man who treats his own ailments has the same need and right as the physician to know what he is using. If the active ingredients are listed on the label, he can treat himself more intelligently, and he can avoid certain drugs to which he knows he is allergic. Are not these considerations vastly more important to his welfare than the alleged psychological advantage of not knowing what is in the drug he is taking? . . .

"The provision branded as 'utterly unreasonable' is simply a means of guaranteeing to the consumer the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. The public, to whom package medicines are offered, does not have scientific knowledge of the nature and treatment of disease. The patent medicine industry, through its advertising of 'cures' for every known ill, has mis-educated the public in regard to the efficacy of drug products. In no other field of consumer goods has the long-suffering public been so efficiently misinformed. Only a definite provision will serve to offset this situation and give the consumer who wants to treat himself accurate information as to the therapeutic worth of drugs.

"Still another criticism offered by those who oppose the new bill is that all the so-called 'horrible example' medicines and cosmetics have already been put out of existence by the present laws. . . .

"A number of the provisions in the new bill have been the law of the land, as applied to food and drug labels, for twenty-seven years. Section 6, which provides that a food, drug, or cosmetic shall be deemed misbranded 'if its labeling is in any particular false, or by ambiguity or inference creates a misleading impression regarding any food, drug or cosmetic,' has caused considerable disturbance. Except for its inclusion of cosmetics this provision is no broader than the present law. In interpreting the general misbranding provision of the Food and Drugs Act nearly ten years ago, the Supreme Court said: 'The aim of the statute is to prevent that (deception) resulting from indirection and ambiguity, as well as from statements which are false.' This provision, as thus interpreted, has worked no hardship on legitimate drug industries.

"The new bill, while a consumer measure, will also be beneficial to honest manufacturers."

DEATH OF DR. GEORGE G. HUNTER

California Medical Association Loses a Valuable, Beloved Member.—On December 12, death called from his earthly activities Dr. George G. Hunter of Los Angeles. Doctor Hunter had long been prominent in the work of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, had served as its president, and for a number of years had been a member of the Council of the California Medical Association. He had, also, long been associated with the late Dr. Henry G. Brainerd of Los Angeles who, in the year 1922-1923, was president of the California Medical Association. In recent years Doctor Hunter had rendered yeoman service in efforts to bring into being legislation that would make for more humane and scientific care of the mentally sick citizens of California. The circumstances of his taking off are both painful and tragic.

On Saturday, December 9, Doctor Hunter was called to see a woman patient who had been under

his observation and care for several years. Without warning, the patient shot the physician in the back, the bullet coursing through both walls of the stomach and abdomen. It was hoped that the operative procedures might save Doctor Hunter's life, but that was not to be.

Doctor Hunter was beloved by all who knew him. To the profession which he so dearly loved, and in his specialty as a neuropsychiatrist, he gave of the best that was in him. His wise and generous coöperation will be sadly missed in the deliberations of the California Medical Association Council.

"ACUTE UNIT" OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITAL FINALLY IN PARTIAL OPERATION

Obstetrical Service Is Installed.—The new twelve-million-dollar "acute unit" of the Los Angeles County General Hospital, which has been a subject of so much discussion for several years past, at last has been partially, even though most modestly occupied. The first group of patients admitted to the new unit at the notable event, which took place on December 12, 1933, are all on the obstetrical service. A photograph of this massive structure, the largest hospital building in the world, is printed on page 70 of this issue.

In due time, if and when this new hospital is put into complete operation, a detailed account of the building will be given. The hospital authorities are making an earnest effort to transfer from the old buildings as many services as possible, and it is hoped that a large part of the new structure will be utilized by the end of January, 1934. In the meantime the following excerpts from one of the Los Angeles newspapers of December 8 may be of interest:

"Out on North State Street is a new modern nineteen-story concrete building. Gardeners are watering the shrubs and trimming the palms and desert cherry trees that beautify the score of acres surrounding the building.

"The building is the new \$12,000,000 General Hospital, patientless as yet.

"Asked a question, a guard at one of the ornate gates said:

"'Oh, they say they're going to move in next week, but they've been saying that for a year and a half.'

"The hospital will be opened next Monday, with two hundred patients of the maternity ward as the first occupants, Superintendent Norman R. Martin, of the hospital, said today.

"In reply to a grand jury query as to why the opening had been delayed, Superintendent Martin declared that transfer of maternity equipment already was under way and that the first patients would be installed next week.

"It will be some time before the building will be fully opened to its normal capacity of 3,500 patients because of the necessary delay in equipping such a vast structure under the specification and bidding system required by law, according to Mr. Martin.

"Connecting the handsome hospital building by a long concrete tunnel, the old hospital building is a strange sight. The first hospital building was put up forty years ago, and additions have been made until the hospital is a series of misshapen buildings, connected by weird runways and spans, the effect being